

LONG ODDS

and other dances from the Preston collection

FOREWORD

The dances which Mrs. Woods has transcribed and edited from Thomas Preston's annual publications belong to a particularly interesting period. Some of the traditional dances noted by Cecil Sharp and others reach back to this phase, and the Preston dances themselves form a link between the surviving tradition and the classical examples of the early Playford period.

I am sure that the five dances selected by Mrs. Woods will give great pleasure to the country dancers of today.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY

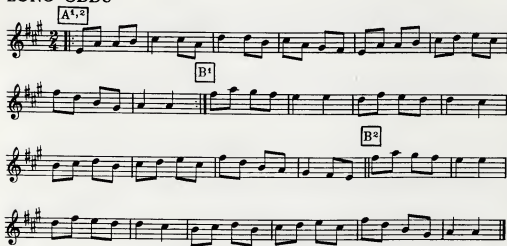
INTRODUCTION

Thomas Preston, of 97 Strand, London, published annually from 1786 to 1801 a set of dances entitled "Twenty-Four Country Dances of the Year". Many of the dances illustrate all too clearly the decline of the country dance in the latter part of the 18th century, but among them are a number of dances of interest both in figure and tune and offering considerable pleasure to the present day dancer.

Five such dances appear in this small publication together with the tunes which are printed above the dances in the original text. The longways dances have, in the case of "Liberty" and "Stowe Hall", been altered to three couple set dances to facilitate the less experienced dancer, but a note is added in each case to explain the alteration made. A characteristic of the period was the inclusion of a neutral (or practically neutral) 3rd couple in many of the longways dances—probably a social concession to give greater opportunity for conversation. To fit the modern evolution of the country dance, this static 3rd couple has been omitted from those dances in which it occurs, in the text here presented.

PAT WOODS

LONG ODDS



Duple longways

- A.1. 1st couple balance, turn partner half turn right hand; turn sides one-and-half turn left hand.
A.2. All balance, sides turn half way right hand. 1st couple one-and-half turn left hand.
B.1. 1st couple lead down centre, turn, lead back, cast round 2nd couple.
B.2. All poussette, 1st gent push, 2nd gent pull, complete poussette.

(From "Twenty-Four Dances of the Year", 1791 edition, published by Preston.)

THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1

PADDY O'BODERAM

Duple longways

- A.1. 1st lady figure 8 between 1st and 2nd gents. Return to place.
- A.2. 1st gents figure 8 between 1st and 2nd ladies. Return to place.
- B.1. All couples lead down, 1st couple arch, 2nd couple under, return to new places.
- B.2. All swing around other couple, balance step.

(From "Twenty-Four Dances of the Year", 1799 edition, published by Preston.)

LIBERTY

*Longways for three couples

- A.1. Three ladies lead round three gents.
- A.2. Three gents lead round three ladies.
- B.1. 1st couple lead down centre, turn, lead back, cast to bottom place.
- B.2. Top couples cross right, left on side, cross right, left on side.

* This dance appears as a triple minor longways and if desired to dance as such, the leading couple should only cast one place in B.1.

From "Twenty-Four Dances of the Year", 1786 edition, published by Preston.)

PRINCE WILLIAM OF GLO'S'TER'S WALTZ

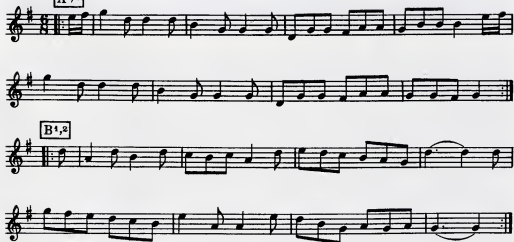
Duple longways

- A.1. 1st corners balance, turn single, cross over.
- A.2. 2nd corners balance, turn single, cross over.
- B. Couples waltz round each other, finishing progressed on own sides.
- C. Right and left hand star.

(From "Twenty-Four Dances of the Year", 1801 edition, published by Preston.)

PADDY O' BODERAM

A¹, 2



B¹, 2

LIBERTY

A¹, 2 *Slow reel*



B¹, 2

PRINCE WILLIAM OF GLO'S'TER'S WALTZ

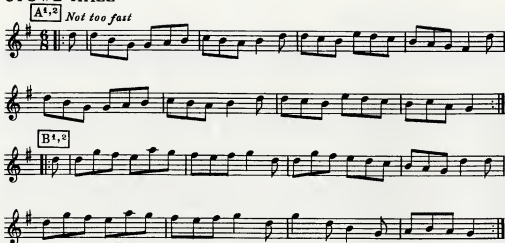
A¹, 2



B

C

STOWE HALL



- *Longways for three couples
- A.1. 1st couple lead through 2nd and 3rd ladies, divide, meet in centre, turn right hand into middle place.
- A.2. 1st couple figure 8 through top couple.
- B.1. All couples promenade.
- B.2. Reel on own side end couples passing inside first. Leading couple cast into bottom place at end.
- * When desired to dance as a triple minor longways the final cast by the leading couple should be omitted.

(From "Twenty-Four Dances of the Year", 1791 edition, published by Preston.)

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The principal object of the E.F.D.S.S. is to restore their folk dances and music to the people of England; all those who enjoy folk dancing and music are cordially invited to join the Society and share this task.

Individuals can become MEMBERS or ASSOCIATES. A Club, School, Institute or other group of folk dancers and singers can also be linked to the Society; full details will gladly be sent on request.

At Cecil Sharp House there is a Sales Department with an extensive stock of the Society's own publications, as well as records, swords, sticks, music and books not usually stocked by the average shop. The Society's staff throughout the country also have stocks for sale. A catalogue will be sent on receipt of 75p.

As songs and dances can only be partly learned from books and gramophone records, the Society arranges, frequently in co-operation with the Local Education Authorities, special classes and courses of instruction for Teachers and Leaders of Youth Clubs, School and College groups all over England.

For further information and advice, write to the Secretary: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.

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